(b) The above Bank lending would be utilized for various development projects in the country in sectors such as infrastructure, human development, rural livelihoods, urban development and agriculture, among others.

Introduction of 10 rupee coins

1186. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce 10 rupee coins in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the designs that visually-challenged people can feel, techno-aesthetic brilliance in terms of form and metallurgy and safety are going to be the hallmark of the 10 rupee coins; and

(c) if so, how soon this is expected to happen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is expected that the production may start in the year 2006.

Increase in operations by foreign banks

1187. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign banks are exploring possibilities to start/increase operations in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to protect the interests of Indian banking industry;

(d) whether any proposal has been received from any foreign bank to take over any private sector bank in India; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?